

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claim in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended). An intervertebral connection system comprising:

a) a ligament having:

- i) a central portion,
- ii) first and second end portions, and
- iii) first and second conformable portions, each conformable portion comprising a fabric,

wherein the first conformable portion is disposed between the central portion and the first end portion, and the second conformable portion is disposed between the central portion and the second end portion

b) first and second shoulderless bone fasteners,

wherein the first end portion is shaped to cooperatively connect to the first bone fastener, and the second end portion is shaped to cooperatively connect to the second bone fastener.

Claims 2-4 (withdrawn)

Claim 5 (original). The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the central and conformable portions is tensionable.

Claim 6(original). The system of claim 5 wherein the tensionable portion is braided.

Claim 7(original). The system of claim 1 wherein the central portion is tensionable.

Claim 8 (original). The system of claim 7 wherein the central portion and conformable portions each have a length, and the length of the central portion is at least twice as long as either conformable portion.

Claim 9 (original). The system of claim 1 wherein at least one of the central and conformable portions is extensible.

Claim 10 (original). The system of claim 9 wherein the extensible portion is braided.

Claim 11(original). The system of claim 1 wherein the central portion is extensible.

Claim 12(original). The system of claim 11 wherein the central portion and conformable portions each have a length, and the length of the central portion is at least twice as long as either conformable portion.

Claims 13-16 (cancelled)

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Claim 17 (currently amended). An intervertebral connection system comprising:

- a) a conformable ligament comprising first and second end portions, each end portion comprising a fabric, and
 - b) first and second bone fasteners,
- wherein of the first bone fastener is located at the end of the first end portion.

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Claim 18 (currently amended). An intervertebral connection system comprising:

- a) a conformable ligament comprising first and second end portions, each end portion comprising a fabric, and
 - b) first and second bone fasteners,
- wherein the first bone fastener is integrally connected to the first end portion of the ligament, and the second bone fastener is integrally connected to the second end portion of the ligament.

Claims 19-23 (withdrawn)

24(original). The system of claim 18 wherein the first bone fastener comprises a shank and lateral protrusions protruding from the shank.

Claims 25-28 (withdrawn)

Claim 29(original). The system of claim 18 wherein the end portion of the ligament has a width W_L and at least one bone fastener has a width W_{BF} , and W_L is no more than W_{BF} .

Claim 30 (currently amended). An intervertebral connection system comprising:

a) a conformable ligament comprising first and second end portions, each end portion comprising a fabric, and

b) first and second bone fasteners,

wherein the first bone fastener is connected to the first end portion of the ligament, and the second bone fastener is connected to the second end portion of the ligament.

wherein the bone fastener is bioresorbable and is shoulderless.

Claims 31-35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (currently amended). An intervertebral connection system comprising:

a) a conformable ligament comprising first and second end portions, each end portion comprising a fabric, and

b) first and second bone fasteners,

wherein the first bone fastener is pre-connected to the first end portion of the ligament, and the second bone fastener is pre-connected to the second end portion of the ligament.

Claim 37 (original). The system of claim 36 wherein the pre-connection is accomplished by physical locking.

Claim 38 (original). The system of claim 36 wherein the pre-connection is accomplished by physical connection.

Claim 39 (original). The system of claim 36 wherein the pre-connection is accomplished by integral connection.

Claims 40-48 (withdrawn)

Claims 49-57 (canceled)

Claims 58-65 (withdrawn)

Claim 66 (canceled)

Claim 67 (currently amended). An intervertebral connection system comprising:

a) a ligament having:

- i) a central portion,
- ii) first and second end portions, each end portion comprising a fabric, and
- iii) first and second intermediate portions,

wherein the first intermediate portion is disposed between the central portion and the first end portion, and the second intermediate portion is disposed between the central portion and the second end portion, and

b) first and second shoulderless bone fasteners,

wherein the first end portion is shaped to cooperatively connect to the first bone fastener, and the second end portion is shaped to cooperatively connect to the second bone fastener, and

wherein at least one of the central and intermediate portions is extensible.

Claim 68 (original). The system of claim 67 wherein the extensible portion has a length which can be increased by 25% without exceeding its yield point.

Claim 69 (original). The system of claim 67 wherein the extensible portion comprises a textile.

Claim 70 (original). The system of claim 67 wherein the extensible portion is a braided yarn.

Claim 71(original). The system of claim 67 wherein the central portion is extensible.

Claim 72 (currently amended). The system of claim 67 wherein the central portion and end [[conformable]] portions each have a length, and the length of the central portion is at least twice as long as either end [[conformable]] portion.

Claims 73-80 (withdrawn)